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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, TU, US

SUBJECT:ECEVIT VISIT TO US

1. SUMMARY. AS ECEVIT AND PARTY LEFT US FOR TURKEY, THEY EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR ASSISTANCE RENDERED BY DEPARTMENT AND SATISFACTION WITH OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED TO PUBLICIZE TURKISH POINT OF VIEW ON VARIETY OF ISSUES, ESPECIALLY CYPRUS, AEGEAN AND OPIUM. ECEVIT ALSO INVITED THREE SY AGENTS TO TURKEY AS GUESTS OF RPP (SEPTTEL). ONLY ONE UNFORTUNATE CHANGE IN PROGRAM OCCURRED IN CHICAGO, WHEN NBC-TV CANCELLED, ONLY HOURS BEFORE A PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED LIVE INTERVIEW. ECEVIT PARTY WERE CONVINCED THAT AMERICAN GREEK LOBBY HAD BEEN RESPONSIBLE. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE OVERALL TRIP WAS SUCCESSFUL AND BENEFICIAL TO US TURKISH RELATIONS ESPECIALLY IN TERMS OF GOODWILL. ECEVIT FREQUENTLY EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF US TURKISH RELATIONS AND PLEDGED TO DO WHAT HE COULD TO STRENGTHEN THEM, BUT ALSO MADE SOME UNHELPFUL STATEMENTS WITH EYE ON TURKISH 1977 ELECTIONS WHERE HE FACES UPHILL BATTLE BUT HOPES TO MAKE STRONG
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SHOWING. END SUMMARY.

2. THROUGHOUT HIS TOUR, WHICH INCLUDED PUBLIC APPEARANCES IN NEW YORK, WASHINGTON, DURHAM, WINSTON-SALEM AND CHICAGO, ECEVIT'S REMARKS WERE DESIGNED TO HAVE MAXIMUM FAVORABLE

PLAY IN TURKEY. FOUR REPRESENTATIVES OF TURKISH PRESS AND RADIO FOLLOWED HIM THROUGHOUT TOUR AND WERE JOINED BY OTHERS IN LARGER CENTERS. THE RPP HELPED DEFRAID SOME OF THEIR EXPENSES, INCLUDING SUBSTANTIAL TAXI CHARGES BETWEEN DURHAM AND WINSTON-SALEM. HE DID NOT HESITATE TO TAKE OCCASIONAL SWIPES AT DEMIREL GOVERNMENT'S "INADEQUATE DOMESTIC POLICIES", BUT FOCUSED ON ITS "WEAKNESS" AND "LACK OF COURAGE" IN DEALING WITH FOREIGN POWERS, ESPECIALLY WITH US. VIRTUALLY EVERY TALK REFERRED TO ECEVIT'S DECISION, DESPITE "INCREDIBLE US GOVERNMENT PRESSURES", TO RESUME OPIUM POPPY GROWING IN TURKEY AND THE RECENT UN REPORT "THAT NO TURKISH OPIUM HAD ENTERED ILLICIT CHANNELS", AS VINDICATION OF ECEVIT'S WISDOM AND COURAGE.

3. ECEVIT ALSO HIGHLIGHTED UNFORTUNATE EFFECTS OF CONGRESSIONAL EMBARGO AGAINST TURKEY AND MINIMIZED BENEFITS OF ITS PARTIAL LIFTING. HE IMPLIED THAT US INTELLIGENCE BASES WERE MORE IMPORTANT TO US THAN TO TURKEY AND THAT TURKEY WAS TAKING HIGH RISKS AS MEMBER OF NATO WHICH WERE NOT FULLY APPRECIATED. DESPITE THIS, ECEVIT SAID HE DID NOT FAVOR TURKISH WITHDRAWAL FROM NATO, BUT A "MORE SATISFACTORY" POSITION WITHIN THE ALLIANCE. HE REPORTED THAT IN WASHINGTON, MEMBERS OF CONGRESS HAD TOLD HIM THAT THE TURKISH-US DCA WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE APPROVED BEFORE US ELECTIONS. (BROOMFIELD SAID THIS AT JULY 28 COFFEE.) ECEVIT DID NOT PUBLICLY EXPRESS ANXIETY RE PASSAGE AFTER NOVEMBER AS REPORTED IN ANKARA 5888. HE PRAISED BOTH PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER FOR THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF TURKEY'S POSITION AND THEIR COURAGE IN SUPPORTING IT DESPITE POLITICAL RISKS INVOLVED. ON HIS LAST DAY, AFTER HAVING UPDATE AT TURKISH UN MISSION AND BENEFIT OF LATEST PRESS REPORTS FROM TURKEY, ECEVIT PRIVATELY EXPRESSED TO DEPARTMENT ESCORT OFFICER HIS MISGIVINGS ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR PASSAGE AFTER NOVEMBER ELECTIONS.

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CYRUS VANCE AT ECEVIT'S COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY TALK AUGUST 3 WAS SUBJECT OF SPECULATION AMONG ECEVIT PARTY.

4. ECEVIT IS ELOQUENT AND EFFECTIVE SPEAKER AND HANDLED QUESTIONS WITH CONSIDERABLE APLOMB. QUESTIONS USUALLY CONCERNED CYPRUS, AEGEAN, OPIUM, US GIRLS IN TURKISH JAILS, AND NATO. HIS PRIME THEME WAS THAT TURKEY AND GREECE CAN SUCCESSFULLY NEGOTIATE THEIR DIFFERENCES, IF THE WEST,

ESPECIALLY THE US, DOES NOT WEIGH IN ON SIDE OF GREECE AND ENCOURAGE LATTER TO STALL. HE FREQUENTLY RECOMMENDED GREEK-TURKISH SUMMIT TO CONSIDER PROBLEMS OF AEGEAN AND CYPRUS WITHOUT "ASSISTANCE OF OUR FRIENDS" AS BEST WAY TO SOLVE CURRENT CRISES. HE WAS OFTEN VAGUE ON SPECIFICS BUT USED HIS CHARISMA TO FULLEST AND SKILLFULLY PRESENTED

IMAGE OF CONCILIATORY TURKEY FACING INTRANSIGENT GREECE AND CYPRUS.

5. ECEVIT HANDLED QUESTIONS ON ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT WELL, EXPLAINING THAT HE DID NOT WISH TO MAKE CHARGES AND FELT YOUNG MAN WAS UNFORTUNATE VICTIM OF TRADITIONAL HATRED, WHICH HE HOPED WOULD LESSEN WITH TIME. AFTERNOON AUGUST 3, ECEVIT CONSENTED TO BE WITNESS AT FEDERAL COURT IN NEW YORK FOR VIDEO DEPOSITION PROCEEDINGS. FOR OVER ONE HOUR HE WAS QUESTIONED BY GOVERNMENT PROSECUTOR (BRIEFLY) AND THEN (AT LENGTH) BY COUNSEL FOR DEFENSE. A COPY OF FILM AND COURT REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ECEVIT. ASSAILANT AND HIS COUNSEL WERE PRESENT DURING DEPOSITION WHICH HEIGHTENED TENSION OF OCCASION.

6. IN SUM, ECEVIT FELT THAT HE BENEFITTED FROM EXPOSURE HIS US VISIT PROVIDED AND ON BALANCE, HIS TRIP WAS ALSO SUCCESSFUL FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW. HE FREQUENTLY EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF US TURKISH RELATIONS AND PLEDGED TO DO WHAT HE COULD TO STRENGTHEN THEM BUT ALSO MADE SOME UNHELPFUL STATEMENTS WITH AN EYE ON TURKISH 1977 ELECTIONS. ON PERSONAL LEVEL MUCH GOODWILL RESULTED, WE BELIEVE, AND ECEVIT ALSO GAINED BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF US POLICIES AS RESULT OF HIS OWN FIRST-HAND OBSERVATIONS AND CONTACTS. HABIB

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